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23 January 1981

What are CIA's plans for APEX?

The DCI is re-examining APEX. I have recommended to him that the APEX structure not be implemented. During the past year, the costs and difficulties of the transition from the existing systems for special access programs for intelligence to the APEX systems have become increasingly visible. I do not believe that the benefits of APEX justify the costs and difficulties of the transition.

I have recommended that significant parts of the APEX effort continue. I believe that we must take major steps to improve the operation of the extant systems. Decompartmentation of IMAGERY and increased decompartmentation of ELINT are two areas that would clearly be beneficial. extent of decompartmentation in both cases, however, is still being debated.

How does this relate to your needs for the 4C computer system?

The Community-wide Computer-assisted Compartmentation Control System (4C) is a major element in strengthening the operation of the existing systems. It is the first priority item in the program I have recommended to the DCI. The 4C System needs at least \$3.8 million in FY '81. The Congress appropriated \$5 million for FY '81, but imposed a \$3 million expenditure limit, pending submission of additional detail. * That information has been supplied. Reprogramming from other sources is impractical because '81 funding for the Community is exceedingly tight. The movement of any part of the outlay to a future fiscal year will delay obtaining the benefits from the 4C system. A delay would mean that the facility would not be available to major Community elements and benefits will accrue only when other major elements have direct on-line access to the system. The 4C System is necessary in order to provide the DCI and Senior Intelligence Officers with timely and accurate management information, as well as to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the several special access intelligence programs.

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STAT Telephonic request from for response to HPSCI:

- 1. What are CIA's plans for APEX?
- 2. How does this relate to your needs for the 4C computer system?

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